

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-5, 8-12 and 14 are pending.

Previous claims 6, 7 and 13 were indicated to be allowable over the cited prior art references. Previous claim 6 was directed in part to the feature of determining which of the possible playmodes were actually available for data units on a particular storage unit and generating an on-screen display displaying the actually available playmodes to enable user selection of a one of the available playmodes.

Claim 1 has been amended to include this feature. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to recite:

... determining which of the **possible playmodes are actually available for actuation** during playback of the data units on the storage medium, and generating an on-screen display menu **displaying the actually available playmodes** to thereby provide to a user, during the PLAY mode of operation, an opportunity to select another one of the actually available playmodes, the plurality of playmodes including a standard playmode representing a default sequence, a random playmode representing a random sequence and programmed playmode representing a sequence specified by a user, without interrupting playback of a current sequence of data units... (emphasis added)

Support for amended claim 1 is provided, for example, on page 6, lines 10-17. Claims 6 and 7 have been cancelled. Claim 9 has been amended to recite this feature in apparatus form. Claim 13 has been cancelled.

In view of the present amendment, Applicants submit that the outstanding rejections in view of Hickey are moot, and that amended claims 1 and 9, and the claims that depend therefrom, are patentably distinguishable over the cited prior art references.

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Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly then, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's attorney at (609) 734-6815, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

Respectfully submitted,
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, Virginia, 22313-1450 on:

2/20/06
Date


Eliza Buchalcyk